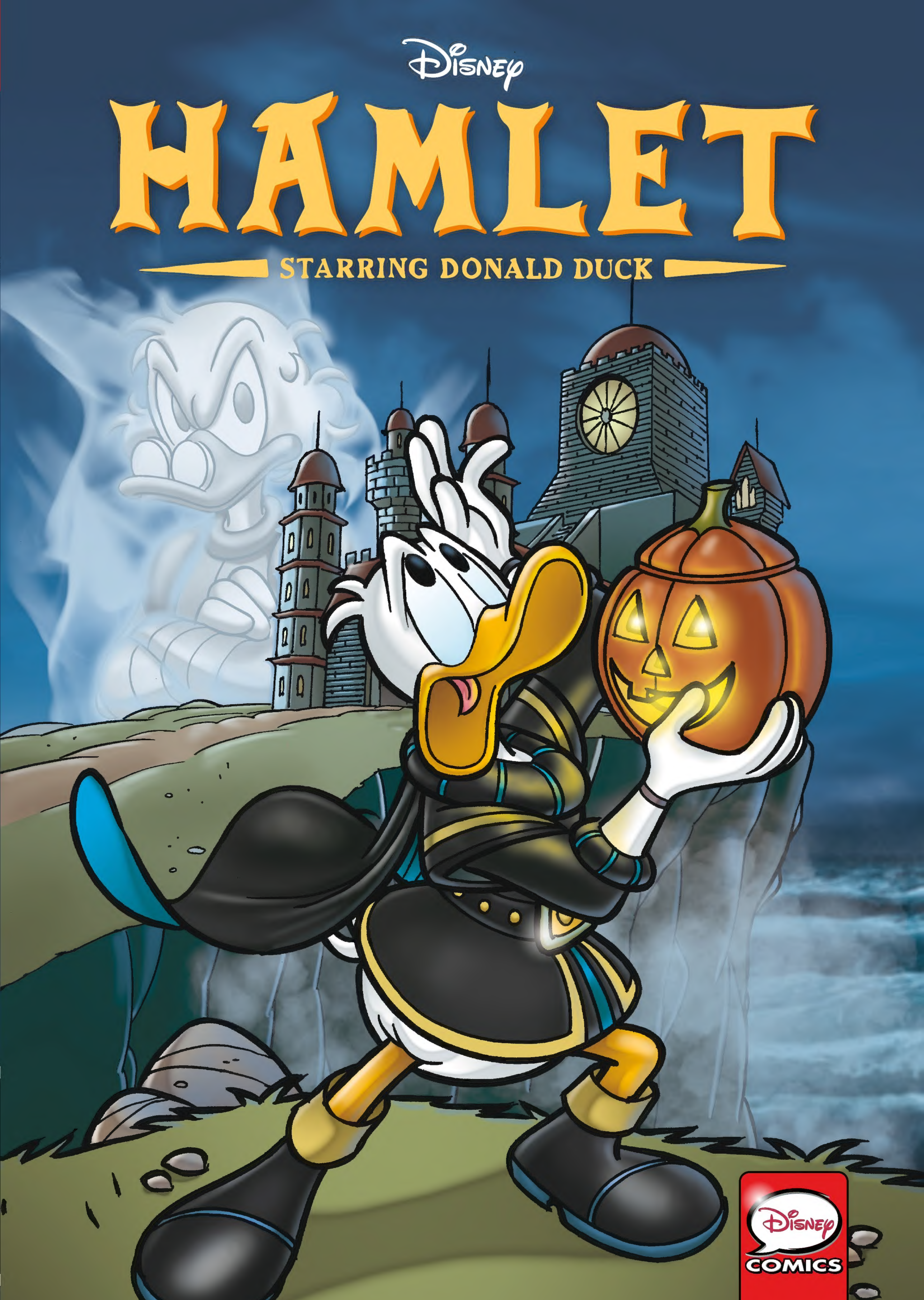
Disney

HAMLET

STARRING DONALD DUCK



Disney COMICS

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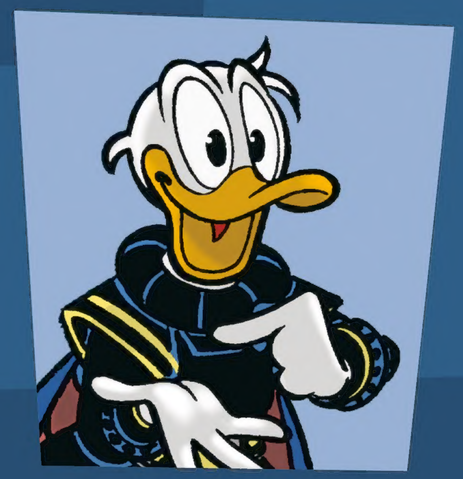

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HAMLET

STARRING

DONALD DUCK

Script by . . . . . GIORGIO SALATI

Art by . . . . . PAOLO DE LORENZI

English Translation by . . . . . ERIN BRADY

Lettering by . . . . . RICHARD STARKINGS
and COMICRAFT'S JIMMY BETANCOURT

Based on the classic play by
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

DARK HORSE BOOKS

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President and Publisher . . . . . MIKE RICHARDSON
Collection Editor . . . . . FREDDYE MILLER
Collection Assistant Editor . . . . . JUDY KHUU
Designer . . . . . SKYLER WEISSENFLUH
Digital Art Technician . . . . . SAMANTHA HUMMER

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Act I

READY THE ROPES, NEPHEWS!

WELCOME TO *DENMARK*, MR. McDUCK!

THANK YOU, *MR. GUNNARSON!* THESE ARE MY NEPHEWS!

I'M HAPPY YOU'RE INSPECTING THE *SMOKED KIPPERS* SENT TO YOUR RESTAURANTS!

I WAS A REAL EXPERT ON THEM IN THE *KLONDIKE*...

...PARTLY BECAUSE THERE WASN'T MUCH ELSE TO EAT!

WELCOME TO MY BUSINESS!

Kippers GUNNARSON

THE SMOKING ROOM IS ON THE LEFT! AND THE WAREHOUSE IS ON THE RIGHT!

BLAH! WHAT A STINK!

WE'LL TAKE A LOOK AROUND WHILE YOU TALK ABOUT BUSINESS, UNCLE SCROOGE!

OKAY! WE'LL BE BUSY FOR A FEW HOURS!

YOU'LL FIND THAT DENMARK HAS THINGS TO OFFER OTHER THAN *SMOKED KIPPERS!*

WE KNOW! WE BOUGHT A *LONELY DUCK* GUIDE!

SO...

YOU'RE ALMOST THERE, UNCLE!

=PANT!= WHY DID YOU WANT TO COME UP HERE SO BADLY?

ACCORDING TO LEGEND, THIS CLIFF IS THE SITE OF THE *PHANTOM CASTLE OF DUCKSINORE!*

THE FAMOUS ENGLISH PLAYWRIGHT *WILLIAM DUCKSPEARE* TOLD THE STORY IN HIS TRAGEDY *DUCKLET, PRINCE OF DENMARK!*

WE NEED TO READ *DUCKLET* FOR SCHOOL, AND WE THOUGHT THIS WAS THE BEST PLACE TO DO IT!

I HAVE TO ADMIT YOU'VE MADE ME CURIOUS!

"ACT ONE, SCENE ONE...A ROOM IN THE CASTLE OF DUCKSINORE...

"ENTER THE KING, THE QUEEN, DUCKLET, DRAKONIUS, AND GLADERTES..."

SO THE *BEAGLE BOYS OF NORWAY* ARE BECOMING MORE OF A THREAT! IS THAT SO, COUNSELOR DRAKONIUS?

IT IS, MY LORD!

EVER SINCE *KING SCROOGE* RAN OFF AND YOU SUCCEEDED HIM TO THE THRONE, THEY'VE BEEN CONVINCED THAT THE KINGDOM IS WEAKER!

NONSENSE!

I'LL SHOW THEM THEY'RE WRONG, WITH THE POWER...

...OF *MONEY!* HEH HEH!

DRAKONIUS, FIND A BRAVE YOUTH TO DELIVER THESE *GOLD CROWNS* TO THE BEAGLES! YOU'LL FIND THAT THEY LEAVE US IN PEACE AFTER THAT!

IF YOU SAY SO, MY LORD...

I COULD ASK *ROSENGOOSE* AND *GUILDENFEATHER* TO DO IT!

HMM... THOSE TWO OAFS?

I'LL GO, YOUR MAJESTY!

GLADERTES? ARE YOU SURE, NEPHEW?

I AM! BY DOING THIS I'LL SHOW EVERYONE WHO THE *BRAVEST YOUTH* IN COURT IS!

=GRUNT!= AND WHO THE BIGGEST *BOASTER* IS!

DARLING *DUCKLET*, WHY THIS DARK MOOD?

UNCLE SCROOGE MAY BE A MISER, BUT HE WOULDN'T BE SO COWARDLY AS TO *PAY* THE BEAGLE BOYS WITH THE KINGDOM'S FUNDS!

WHY DO YOU STILL MOURN THE DEPARTURE OF YOUR UNCLE, DUCKLET?

REMEMBER, YOU'RE LIKE A NEPHEW TO ME!

I'D RATHER BE RELATED TO A *BAT!*

AND NOW LET US CALL FOR VICTUALS AND COURT JESTERS! LET THE TRUMPETS BLARE AND THE CANNONS FIRE TO CELEBRATE MY IMMINENT *BETROTHAL* TO *QUEEN BRIGERTRUDE!*

BLEAH!

PE PEEE PE PE PE PEEE

OH, IF ONLY MY TOO-HEAVY FEATHERS WOULD LET ME FLY AWAY FROM ALL OF THIS!

MY UNCLE RETIRED TO GREENLAND JUST TWO MONTHS AGO, AND THEY'RE ALREADY RUSHING OFF TO CELEBRATE! TRAITORS!

BRIGITTE BARDUCK, BARDUUUCK!

KING ROCKLAUDIUS... *HAH!* HE'S FRITTERING AWAY THE KINGDOM'S WEALTH ON FEASTING, KNICKKNACKS, AND TASTELESS SOUVENIRS!

IBIZA

NOT TO MENTION HER... WHAT A DISAPPOINTMENT!

SO *IN LOVE* WITH MY UNCLE... AND NOW THAT HE'S NOT HERE, SHE'S AGREED TO MARRY THAT *USELESS KING!*

THE HORROR!

AND AS IF THAT WEREN'T ENOUGH, MY UNCLE WENT AWAY WITHOUT GIVING ME THE *15 SHILLINGS* HE PROMISED!

I NEEDED THE CASH TO INVITE MY BELOVED *DUCKOPHELIA* TO A LITTLE DINNER OF *KIPPERS AND ICE!*

SOB!

ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP *WHINING* FOR MUCH LONGER, OR IS YOUR MONOLOGUE OVER?

?

U-UNCLE?! B-BUT WEREN'T YOU...

LISTEN UP, NEPHEW! AND AFTER YOU'VE HEARD WHAT I HAVE TO SAY, YOU MUST BRING ME *JUSTICE!*

I DIDN'T ACTUALLY LEAVE FOR GREENLAND! I...*DISAPPEARED!*

*"IT ALL HAPPENED DURING MY USUAL **AFTERNOON NAP** WITH MY BELOVED **GOLDEN CROWNS!**"*

ZZZ...

"DURING MY SAFE, PEACEFUL SLUMBER, THE DETESTABLE **ROCKLAUDIUS** SNUCK UP ON ME WITH A MAGIC POTION HE CALLS **NONSENSE JUICE!**"

HEE HEE HEE!

THAT THRONE USURPER! I KNEW IT!

SHHH! DON'T INTERRUPT!

"AS I WAS SAYING...THAT DESPICABLE CHARACTER POURED THAT TREACHEROUS SLOP ON MY HEAD..."

QUACK!

"...AND MY WHOLE BODY INSTANTLY BECAME **TRANSPARENT** AND **INCORPOREAL**..."

...LIKE A *GHOST!* WHAT A TRIAL IT WAS TO NO LONGER BE ABLE TO HOLD MY BELOVED COINS IN MY HANDS!

AND LIKE A GHOST, I CAN ONLY BE SEEN BY A CLOSE RELATIVE...THAT'S *YOU!*

ACTUALLY, WHEN I SAW YOU...

...I THOUGHT YOU SEEMED A LITTLE PALE...*OUCH!*

BONK

I THOUGHT THE POTION MADE YOU *INCORPOREAL!*

NOT TO YOU! ANYWAY, YOU'RE BARELY ABLE TO TELL ORANGE SODA FROM *TURNIP SOUP*... WHAT WOULD YOU KNOW ABOUT *MAGIC POTIONS?*

NOW LISTEN, NEPHEW! YOU HAVE TO *RESTORE JUSTICE!*

FIND OUT IF THERE'S AN ANTIDOTE TO THE *NONSENSE JUICE*, AND FORCE ROCKLAUDIUS TO GIVE IT TO YOU!

I CAN'T WAIT TO GET MY HANDS ON THAT LAZY LOAFER!

UM...I'D BETTER WRITE ALL THIS DOWN!

AND AFTER THAT, YOU'LL ARREST HIM FOR HIGH TREASON!

ANYTHING ELSE?

WHACK

WHILE YOU'RE HERE, SHINE THE *SILVER DOUBLOONS!* ALL THIS HUMIDITY IS MAKING THEM RUSTY!

≠GRUNT!≠ I'D SAY THAT'S ENOUGH!

PAF

AND NOW... GIVE ME YOUR WORD THAT YOU'LL RESTORE JUSTICE!

WAIT A MINUTE! IF I DO IT, WILL YOU GIVE ME THOSE 15 SHILLINGS YOU OWE ME?

DOES IT SEEM APPROPRIATE TO BE THINKING OF POCKET CHANGE AT A SOLEMN MOMENT LIKE THIS? *SWEAR IT!*

BONK

OUCH! I SWEAR!

AND NOW THAT YOU'VE SWORN ON THIS SWORD, THE PACT IS SEALED! THERE'S NO TURNING BACK!

TECHNICALLY, I DID IT *UNDER* THIS SWORD!

FAREWELL, FAREWELL! REMEMBER MEEE... MEEE... MEEE...

?

ARE YOU *ECHOING* YOURSELF?

=GRUNT!= DON'T RUIN MY EXIT!

OOO...

?

CRASH

...OOOUCH!

SBAM

BONK

GYRATIO... MY DEAR FRIEND, WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP HERE?

I WAS EVEN HIGHER UP, MY PRINCE! I WENT ALL THE WAY TO THE TOP OF THE CASTLE...

...TO TEST MY LATEST INVENTION: THE *WIND-POWERED POTATO PEELER!*

!

AND...DID YOU *SEE* ANYTHING?

WELL, "SEE" ISN'T THE RIGHT WORD!

*"WHAT MY EYES WITNESSED WAS YOU TALKING TO **YOURSELF**...OR MAYBE TO A **GHOST!**"*

AND WHAT DID YOU HEAR?

OH, NOT MUCH...

JUST THAT ROCKLAUDIUS USURPED YOUR UNCLE'S THRONE AND NOW YOU NEED TO RESTORE JUSTICE! AND...OH, AND THAT YOU HAVE TO *SHINE* THE SILVER DOUBLOONS!

GASP! *EVERYTHING*, THEN!

SO THEN KNOW THIS, GYRATIO! I SHALL RESTORE JUSTICE NO MATTER WHAT!

BUT YOU HAVE TO GIVE ME YOUR WORD THAT YOU WON'T TELL A LIVING SOUL!

WE'VE BEEN LIKE BROTHERS FOR A LONG TIME, MY PRINCE!

THERE'S NO NEED FOR ME TO SWEAR TO ENSURE MY LOYALTY TO YOUR SECRET!

I KNOW... BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH!

SWEAR!

ULP!

UM... COME ON, LET'S GO OVER THERE!

AS I WAS SAYING... FRIENDSHIP ISN'T ENOUGH, GYRATIO!

SWEAAAR!

?

QUACK!

WELL! YOU'D BETTER DO IT IF YOU DON'T WANT TO FIND YOURSELF GETTING A *REMINDER* IN THE FORM OF A *BUMP ON THE HEAD!*

I DON'T UNDERSTAND, BUT...*I SOLEMNLY SWEAR* THAT I WON'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT WHAT I SAW!

ALL THIS IS MORE ABSURD THAN MY *GRANDMA SOPHIA'S* NIGHTMARES WHEN SHE GOES TO BED AFTER EATING *GOULASH!*

GYRO, THERE ARE MORE THINGS IN THE SKY AND ON EARTH THAN YOUR GRANDMA SOPHIA CAN DREAM OF...

AREN'T YOU HAPPY, ROCKLAUDIUS?

HUH? OF COURSE I AM, MY QUEEN!

I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT *DUCKLET!* EVER SINCE SCROOGE LEFT, THE YOUNG PRINCE HAS BEEN VERY *HOSTILE* TOWARD US!

THAT MEDDLESOME BRAT *CAN'T FIND OUT* HOW I STOLE HIS UNCLE'S THRONE... OR I'LL BE IN DEEP TROUBLE!

IF YOU'RE SO WORRIED ABOUT HIM, WHY DON'T YOU ASK *ROSENGOOSE* AND *GUILDENFEATHER* TO PROBE THE BOY'S THOUGHTS?

THOSE TWO *DISASTERS?*

THEY MAY BE DISASTERS, BUT THEY'RE HIS CHILDHOOD FRIENDS! THEY'LL UNDERSTAND HIM BETTER THAN WE DO!

HMM...

SO BE IT! *CALL THE ROYAL DISASTERS!*

RIGHT AWAY!

HERE WE ARE!

YOU SUMMONED US, YOUR MAJESTY?

GENTLEMEN! I NEED YOUR HELP!

SPLAT

YOUR FRIEND DUCKLET HAS BEEN BEHAVING STRANGELY OF LATE! YOU NEED TO FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THAT *FRUITCAKE'S* HEAD!

...YUM!

BUT REMEMBER: THIS IS A TOP-SECRET MISSION! SO...*SHHH!*

SHHH!

OFF WITH YOU NOW, MY GOOD MEN!

RIGHT AWAY! BUT NOT BEFORE...

...WE'VE *REPLENISHED* OUR ENERGY STORES! THOSE *CHEESES* LOOK, UH... HIGH CALORIE! *YUM!*

:CHOMP!:

:MUNCH!: SOMETHING IS *CHEESY* IN THE STATE OF DENMARK!

:GRUNT!:

WHAT IF WHAT I SAW WASN'T REAL? WHAT IF I'VE BEEN TRICKED?

ROCKLAUDIUS MIGHT BE *UNPLEASANT*...BUT INNOCENT! IF THAT'S TRUE, HE DOESN'T DESERVE TO BE PUNISHED!

I NEED *PROOF!* I NEED TO KNOW IF THAT *TRANSPARENT* VERSION OF MY UNCLE TOLD ME THE TRUTH!

IS HE STILL TALKING TO HIMSELF?

DUNNO!

MY DEAR PRINCE!

?

ROSENGOOSE! GUILDENFEATHER! WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?

FROM THE PANTRY!

BURP!

SO TELL ME, WHAT'S LED YOU TO LOOK FOR ME WITH SUCH CONCERN?

KING ROCKLAUDIUS!

YOU'RE ACTING STRANGE, AND HE WANTS TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR HEAD!

YEAH! THAT'S OUR *MISSION!*

LET ME GUESS: IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A SECRET, BUT INSTEAD YOU'VE BETRAYED YOURSELVES LIKE THE TWO DISASTERS YOU ARE!

EXACTLY! *SHHH!*

ZZZ...

UM... WHAT NOW?

*ZZZ...*HUH? APPLE PIE FOR ME, PLEASE!

LET'S CHANGE THE *SUBJECT,* OR WE'LL GET IN TROUBLE!

*HMM...*CANDIED APPLES? CINNAMON BUNS?

OH, THANK GOODNESS! HERE'S SOMETHING YOU'LL LOVE, MY PRINCE! THE *SCHOOLCHILDREN* OF DUCKSINORE!

TO CELEBRATE THE INAUGURATION OF KING ROCKLAUDIUS, THEY'RE GOING TO TREAT THE COURT TO A *RECITAL!*

HMM... INTERESTING!

IDEA!

DO YOU TEACH THESE CHILDREN?

YES, MY PRINCE!

IF I WROTE A COUPLE OF LINES, WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO ADD THEM TO YOUR PERFORMANCE?

WE'D BE *HONORED!*

AND IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'LL *WEAVE* THE COSTUMES MYSELF!

WHATEVER YOU'D LIKE!

JUST SHOW UP TOMORROW EVENING, AND EVERYTHING WILL BE READY!

WHAT ABOUT US?

HMM... SNACK TIME?

I'M A GENIUS! I'LL HAVE THEM *ACT OUT* THE SAME CRIMES IN THE PLAY THAT I SUSPECT ROCKLAUDIUS HAS COMMITTED!

IF THAT COWARD GETS *SCARED* WHEN HE SEES IT, IT MEANS THAT HE'S GUILTY! DID I MENTION I WAS A GENIUS?

MY DEAR *DUCKOPHELIA*, DID YOU WANT TO SEE ME?

YES, UNCLE DRAKONIUS! I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!

TELL ME! WHAT IS THE *CAUSE* OF SO MUCH WORRY?

IT'S PRINCE DUCKLET!

GOODNESS GRACIOUS! AND WHATEVER HAS THE REGAL HEIR DONE TO GENERATE SUCH GRAVE AGITATION IN YOU?

UM... WHAT?

WELL, WHAT DID DUCKLET DO?

AH, I GET IT!

READ THE LETTERS HE SENT ME!

LET'S SEE...

Doubt that the stars shine above
Doubt that your hand needs a glove
Doubt that peace is a dove

"...BUT NEVER DOUBT MY *LOVE*"!

GOODNESS GALLOPING GRACIOUSNESS! THE PRINCE ISN'T A GREAT *POET*, BUT HE'S *TAKEN* TO YOU LIKE A KIPPER TO THE OVEN!

OH, I HOPE IT'S TRUE!

DUCKLET IS BEHAVING STRANGELY...IT MIGHT BE BECAUSE HE'S *IN LOVE!* THE KING WILL BE HAPPY TO HEAR IT!

ALL THE SAME, WE NEED TO BE SURE... TALK TO THE PRINCE AND TRY TO SEE IF HIS FEELINGS ARE SINCERE!

I WILL, DEAR UNCLE!

TO WEAVE OR NOT TO WEAVE, THAT IS THE QUESTION...

TO WEAVE THE COSTUMES FOR THE PLAY? TO WEAVE A STORY THAT WILL HURT ROCKLAUDIUS?

AM I DOING THE RIGHT THING? WHAT A *DUCK-WORTHY* DILEMMA!

STOP BEING A *CHICKEN* AND GET TO WORK!

THERE HE IS! IT'S TIME TO CONFRONT HIM!

YOU AGAIN?

HELLO, MY DEAR PRIN--

SO WHAT DO YOU WANT *NOW?*

W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN, MY LORD?

OH, SORRY, DEAREST DUCKOPHELIA! I WAS MAD AT MYSELF!

WELL, I CAME TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT YOUR LETTER...

DON'T GET DISTRACTED BY THAT NONSENSE!

GRRR! IT'S NOT NONSENSE!

BUT, DUCKLET, I NEVER SAID IT WAS!

SORRY AGAIN, MY DEAR! I WAS MAD AT AN *ANNOYING MOSQUITO* BUZZING IN MY EAR!

BUT THERE ARE NO MOSQUITOES THIS TIME OF YEAR!

I MAY BE AS ANNOYING AS A MOSQUITO, BUT YOU'RE AS BRAVE AS AN *EARTHWORM!*

IS THAT SO?! WELL, YOU'RE A *MANGY OLD CROW!*

?!

I'VE NEVER BEEN SO INSULTED! GOODBYE, *MR. DUCKLET!*

NO! WAIT!

SEE WHAT YOU DID?

PAH! FOCUS ON UNMASKING THAT *BUFFOON* ROCKLAUDIUS INSTEAD!

HA! HA! HA!

AND NOW FOR THE MAIN SHOW, YOUR MAJESTY!

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

FINALLY!

DID YOU LEARN YOUR PARTS BY HEART?

YES, MR. PRINCE!

HELP ME, GYRATIO! IF ROCKLAUDIUS GETS MAD WHILE WATCHING THIS SCENE, WE'LL HAVE PROOF THAT HE HAS A *GUILTY CONSCIENCE!*

FIRULI FIRULA

HMM...

ZZZ...

HEE HEE!

QUACK!

WHAT...

MUAHAHA!

IT CAN'T BE! STOP THE PLAY!

ROCKLAUDIUS... WHAT'S GOING ON?

OUT! OUT, ALL OF YOU! WHAT A DISGRACE! WHAT AN INSULT!

AHA! WHAT DO YOU THINK, GYRATIO? SHOWN HIS OWN TREACHERY, THE TRAITOR REVEALS HIMSELF!

NOW ALL THE CARDS ARE ON THE TABLE! ROCKLAUDIUS HAS REVEALED HIS TRUE NATURE WHEN FACED WITH THE DEPICTION OF HIS OWN CRIME! WHAT WILL DUCKLET DO NOW?

END OF ACT I

Act II

PRINCE DUCKLET HAS PROMISED **KING SCROOGE** HE'LL HELP HIM RETURN TO NORMAL AFTER **ROCKLAUDIUS** USED A POTION TO MAKE HIM **INVISIBLE** AND **INAUDIBLE** IN ORDER TO STEAL HIS THRONE! AFTER FALLING INTO A THEATRICAL TRAP, THE FAKE KING REVEALED HIS OWN GUILT...

NOW IT'S UP TO DUCKLET TO RESTORE THE THRONE AND HIS UNCLE'S HONOR AND SERVE JUSTICE!

I DON'T KNOW HOW HE FOUND OUT, BUT YOUNG DUCKLET KNOWS TOO MUCH! HE HAS BECOME A DANGER TO THE CROWN AND SHOULD BE ELIMINATED!

THE GHOST OF MY CRIMES HANGS OVER ME LIKE A BLACK CURTAIN THAT GETS HEAVIER WITH EVERY STEP I TAKE...

UM...I MEAN: THE PRINCE SEEMS A LITTLE *STRESSED* TO ME! WHY DON'T YOU TAKE HIM ON A *HOLIDAY* TO ENGLAND?

DO ROYALS ALWAYS TALK TO THEMSELVES?

GO ON, PACK YOUR THINGS! I'LL GIVE YOU ALL THE TRAVEL PAPERS!

MAYBE WE'LL FIND A CHEAP FARE!

BUT WHERE'S DUCKLET RIGHT NOW?

MY PRINCE, *QUEEN BRIGERTRUDE* WISHES TO SPEAK WITH YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

DO YOU SEE THAT CLOUD? DOESN'T IT LOOK LIKE A *CAMEL?*

A-A CAMEL?

O-OF COURSE! LOOK AT THAT LOVELY CAMEL OVER THERE!

TELL THE QUEEN I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!

A CAMEL... HAH!

WAAAAH!

THAT'S THE LAST TIME I BUY YOU A CAMEL-SHAPED BALLOON! IT'S THE THIRD ONE YOU'VE LOST!

THE PRINCE IS COMING! BUT BE CAREFUL: HE'S ACTING EVEN STRANGER! NOW HE'S RAMBLING ON ABOUT *CAMELS* IN THE SKY!

CAMELS?

FOR YOUR SAFETY, I'LL HIDE BEHIND THIS TAPESTRY AND LISTEN TO YOUR CONVERSATION!

AS YOU WISH!

WELL, WHAT IS IT?

YOUR PLAY OFFENDED THE KING!

THE LITTLE PLAY *YOU'RE* PUTTING ON IS MUCH MORE OFFENSIVE TO THE KING THAN *MINE!* THE *REAL* KING, THAT IS! MY UNCLE, KING SCROOGE!

?

WAIT A MINUTE... *HMM...*

CAUGHT YOU, YOU OLD SPY!

MY CORNS! MY POOR CORNS!

OH, IT'S ONLY DRAKONIUS... TOO BAD! I THOUGHT YOU WERE ROCKLAUDIUS!

OH, DUCKLET... WHY ARE YOU ACTING LIKE THIS?

WHAT ABOUT YOU? WHY ARE *YOU* ACTING LIKE THIS?

WHAT DID I DO?

YOU BETRAYED MY UNCLE SCROOGE BY GETTING ENGAGED TO ROCKLAUDIUS!

BETRAYED? HE WAS THE ONE WHO BETRAYED *ME!*

I'D RATHER EMIGRATE TO *GREENLAND* THAN GET ENGAGED TO YOU!

AND HE REALLY DID IT! SO TO GET BACK AT HIM, I GOT ENGAGED TO HIS RIVAL!

AND YOU'RE PROUD OF THAT?

NO! BOO-HOO! I'VE REALIZED I'M STILL IN LOVE WITH *SCROOGE!* I'M A MONSTER!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

MY QUEEN IS IN TEARS, AND MY STATE COUNSELOR IS INJURED! AND IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF DUCKLET!

AIIII! OHHH! OIII!

THE KINGDOM IS IN EVEN MORE DANGER! TAKE HIM TO ENGLAND NOW!

HEY! WHERE ARE WE GOING?

TO TRY THE *ENGLISH BREAKFAST!* EGGS, BACON, BEANS... YUM!

HERE'S OUR SHIP!

ARE THOSE THE NORWEGIAN BEAGLE BOYS? WHAT ARE THEY DOING HERE IN DENMARK?

?

CALM DOWN, WE'RE JUST *PASSING THROUGH!*

WE'RE GOING TO... UM... POLAND!

TO POLAND? WHAT FOR?

UH... SIGHT-SEEING!

SIGHTSEEING IN THE SHADE OF *BIG BEN,* HUH? ALTHOUGH I'M A PRINCE, I'VE NEVER ALLOWED MYSELF TO TAKE A VACATION!

WELL SAID!

AIII! OHHH! OIII!

POOR DRAKONIUS! STILL SUFFERING THE EFFECTS OF HIS *PRINCELY BEATING!*

ALL HE DOES IS *THUMP* AROUND THE CASTLE AIMLESSLY WITH NO CONTROL OF HIS OWN LIMBS!

UNCLE! UNCLE DRAKONIUS!

BING

BOING

POOR UNCLE! WHAT DID THEY DO TO YOU?

DUCKOPHELIA! CAREFUL NOT TO--

OOPS!

THUMP

OUCH!

CONK

AND IT KEEPS GETTING BETTER! DRAKONIUS JUST PASSED OUT!

UHHH...

UHHH...

DING

DONG

WHAT ABOUT YOU, DUCKOPHELIA? ARE YOU HURT?

I... I...

...SOMEWHERE OVER THE DUCK POND, WAY UP HIIIIIGH! THERE'S A DUCK THAT I'VE HEARD OF...

...ONCE IN A LULLABYYYY!

GREAT! DRAKONIUS IS KNOCKED OUT, AND HIS NIECE IS WANDERING AROUND SINGING NONSENSE!

LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE...IT COULD BE WORSE!

WORSE? HOW?

WELL, FOR EXAMPLE, *GLADERTES* COULD RETURN WITH NO MONEY AND NO TRUCE WITH THE BEAGLE BOYS!

AHEM...

G-GLADERTES! DON'T TELL ME THAT--

EXACTLY THAT! YOU WERE WRONG! THOSE SCOUNDRELS KEPT THE MONEY...AND THEY'RE STILL NOT SATISFIED!

SOONER OR LATER THEY'LL COME HERE AND...BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO MY UNCLE?

Z

AND MY COUSIN?! WHAT DID YOU DO TO DUCKOPHELIA?

WE CAN... UM...EXPLAIN EVERYTHING!

LAVENDER'S DUUUCK...DILLY DILLY...

DUCKOPHELIA, ANSWER ME! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?

...LAVENDER'S GOOOSE...

WHEN I AM QUEEEEN... DILLY DILLY...

WHAT IS SHE SINGING ABOUT?

I DON'T KNOW!

SIRE! YOU'LL HAVE TO ANSWER FOR THE STATE OF MY RELATIVES!

CALM YOURSELF, MY DEAR GLADERTES!

I'M MORE INNOCENT IN THIS THAN A LITTLE *BABY DOVE!*

THEN TELL ME THE NAME OF THE WICKED *CROW* WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR EVERYTHING, AND I'LL *PLUCK HIS FEATHERS!*

UNFORTUNATELY, THE ONE WHO ATTACKED YOUR FAMILY AND THREATENS MY SAFETY IS CALLED *DUCKLET!*

DUCKLET? *THAT* DUCKLET?

YES... *THAT* DUCKLET!

ROSENGOOSE? GUILDENFEATHER? WEREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE IN ENGLAND WITH THE PRINCE?

UM... *THAT* DUCKLET MADE US COME BACK TO DENMARK!

WE WERE A FEW MILES FROM THE COAST WHEN HE REALIZED HE'D FORGOTTEN HIS FAVORITE *SLIPPERS!*

THE ONES IN THE SHAPE OF *KANGAROOS,* SIRE!

SLIPPERS? *KANGAROOS?* WHAT *FOOL* WOULD BELIEVE SUCH A SILLY EXCUSE?

WE WOULD, SIRE!

AT YOUR SERVICE, AS ALWAYS!

COME, GLADERTES! I'VE JUST HAD AN IDEA!

DO YOU THINK WE'RE ALLOWED TO MOVE? HE DIDN'T SAY "AT EASE"!

AT EA... ZZZ...

SOON DUCKLET WILL BE HERE, AND YOU'LL BE ABLE TO GET REVENGE FOR EVERYTHING YOU WANT!

I CAN'T WAIT... WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?

CHALLENGE HIM TO A DUEL! IF YOU WIN, I'LL NAME YOU AS MY HEIR TO THE THRONE!

I GRATEFULLY ACCEPT, *MY LORD!* I WON'T DISAPPOINT YOU! AS FOR DUCKLET, WELL...

"...HE'S DONE FOR!"

MY UNCLE WON'T LEAVE ME ALONE!

SO YOU DIDN'T COME BACK FOR *SLIPPERS?*

OF COURSE NOT!

"KING SCROOGE CAUGHT UP WITH ME! HE MADE ME COME BACK TO HONOR MY PROMISE TO CONFRONT ROCKLAUDIUS!"

IN FACT, HE'S EVEN WATCHING ME NOW, TO MAKE SURE I'M GOING TO THE CASTLE!

AREN'T YOU SORRY YOU DIDN'T VISIT ENGLAND?

PSH! I FOUND OUT THEY WON'T BUILD *BIG BEN* FOR ANOTHER *THREE CENTURIES*...THERE'S PLENTY OF TIME!

ANSWER THIS RIDDLE: WHO MAKES HEALTHIER SWEETS THAN THE BAKER, THE COOK, OR THE SNACK MANUFACTURER?

UM... GRANDMA?

NO...*THE FARMER!* THE FRUITS FROM HIS FIELDS ARE SWEET, NATURAL, AND WITH NO ADDED SUGAR!

LOOK AT THESE BOYS, GYRATIO! THEY'RE PREPARING THE PUMPKINS FOR THE HOLIDAY!

I'VE BEEN WORKING ON THIS FOR 23 HOURS, SIR!

AND WHAT WILL YOU CALL IT?

I WAS THINKING YORICK-O'-LANTERN... LIKE THE OLD COURT JESTER!

YORICK?

"DEAR OLD YORICK...I STILL REMEMBER WHEN HE HELPED ME PREPARE THE DECORATIONS, JUST AS YOU'RE DOING NOW!"

WHERE ARE ALL THOSE GRINNING PUMPKINS, PUPPETS, AND GAMES NOW? WHERE ARE THE JOKES THAT MADE THE TABLES BURST INTO LAUGHTER?

TURNING TO DUST IN SOME CASTLE STOREROOM!

QUACK!

AND IF YOU DON'T STOP SHILLY-SHALLYING, I'LL TURN *YOU* TO DUST!

POP

WOULD YOU MIND HURRYING UP AND HONORING YOUR PROMISE, YOU SLOTHFUL LITTLE SLOB?

UM... YOU CAN HAVE THIS BACK!

WHAT'S GOING ON?

NOTHING... LET'S GO TO THE CASTLE AND SETTLE THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL!

KNOW WHAT WE'LL DO WHILE WE WAIT FOR DUCKLET?

NO, WHAT'LL WE DO?

COME UP WITH A VILLAINOUS PLAN! HEE HEE!

EXCELLENT, EXCELLENT!

WHEN YOU DUEL WITH THE PRINCE, I'LL HELP YOU WIN!

YOU'RE TOO GOOD, SIRE... OR TOO *BAD*, DEPENDING ON YOUR POINT OF VIEW!

LISTEN TO ME CAREFULLY: DURING THE BATTLE, DUCKLET WILL GET TIRED AND THIRSTY!

HOW DO YOU KNOW?

"I KNOW HIM. WHEN HE'S EXERCISING, THAT WIMP TAKES A BREAK EVERY FIVE MINUTES..."

...AND THAT'S WHEN WE'LL MAKE HIM DRINK *THIS!*

WHAT IS IT?

IT'S THE SAME COLOR AS HIS FAVORITE *ENERGY DRINK*, BUT IT'S *NONSENSE JUICE* POTION!

WHEN HE DRINKS IT... HE'LL DISAPPEAR, TOO!

BUT ISN'T THAT KIND OF A DISHONEST WAY OF BEATING HIM?

I'M SURPRISED AT YOU, GLADERTES! DO YOU REALLY WANT TO AVENGE YOUR FAMILY?

OR IS THIS JUST AN ACT YOU'RE PUTTING ON, AND YOU'RE ACTUALLY MORE OF A CHICKEN THAN DUCKLET?

I-I... BUT... WHAT'S HAPPENING?

LAVENDER'S DUCK, DILLY DILLY...

ZZZ...

?

LAVENDER'S GOOSE! WHEN I AM QUEEEEEN, DILLY DILLY...

...YOU SHALL BE KIIING!

DUCKOPHELIA... MY BELOVED! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?

LEAVE HER ALONE, YOU TRAITOR! IT'S YOUR FAULT SHE'S LIKE THIS!

LIAR! COME HERE AND SAY THAT AGAIN, IF YOU'RE BRAVE ENOUGH!

OKAY!

HERE I AM! AND I'M ALSO CHALLENGING YOU TO A *DUEL!*

BONK

OOOF!

ROCKLAUDIUS! IS WHAT I'VE HEARD TRUE? DO DUCKLET AND GLADERTES MEAN TO FIGHT EACH OTHER IN A DUEL?

=GRUNT!= GOSSIP'S TRAVELED FASTER THROUGH THIS CASTLE EVER SINCE WE INSTALLED *FIBER OPTICS!*

HERE ARE THE CONTESTANTS NOW!

@*#%!

LET THE CHALLENGED PARTY CHOOSE HIS WEAPON!

HMM...

HA!

ULP!

YOU WANT TO PLAY ROUGH, EH?

THEN LET'S PLAY!

ARGH!

GRRR! YOU CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD!

UM...

CRASH

COME HERE, YOU TREACHEROUS LITTLE DUCK!

ULP!

HEY! NOT LIKE THAT!

STOP! YOU'RE DESTROYING KNICKKNACKS GATHERED DURING YEARS OF VISITS TO MARKETS!

SBRANG

:GASP!: ALL THIS EXCITEMENT IS MAKING ME THIRSTY!

NO! THAT CUP IS FOR DUCKLET!

=TSK!= I'LL HAVE ANOTHER BROUGHT FOR HIM!

?

HUH? WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?

OH, NO! THE POTION IS MAKING HER DISAPPEAR!

WHAT POTION?

THAT NONSENSE JUICE WAS FOR YOU! IT WAS ALL ROCKLAUDIUS'S IDEA, AND NOW THE QUEEN'S PAYING FOR IT!

AH, IS THAT SO?

UM...I JUST REMEMBERED I HAVE A *DINNER* WITH THE DUKE OF POMERANIA!

AAARGH! COME HERE, YOU UGLY TRAITOR!

HELP! HIGH TREASON UNDERWAY!

WELL DONE, NEPHEW! MAKE HIM GIVE YOU THE ANTIDOTE FOR THE NONSENSE JUICE!

CRASH BOOM

SCROOGE?

B-BRIGERTRUDE... YOU... CAN SEE ME?

SO YOU *DIDN'T* RUN OFF TO GREENLAND!

THIS MEANS WE CAN GET ENGAGED!

IT MEANS NOTHING, OKAY? *NOTHING!*

I'LL CRUSH YOU!

CRASH

SOMEONE STOP HIM! HE'S LOST HIS SENSES!

OH, NO! WHAT DID YOU DO?

DON'T TELL ME THIS IS WHERE YOU STORE ALL YOUR NONSENSE JUICE!

IT IS! AND... ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS *TOUCH* IT TO BECOME *INVISIBLE!*

ULP! SCROOGE!

AHA! YOU TREACHEROUS SCOUNDREL! NOW YOU'RE INVISIBLE, TOO!

AND I SUSPECT I CAN PUNISH YOU NOW... *TAKE THAT!*

BUMP

OUCH! SOMEONE'S ANGRY IN THE STATE OF DENMARK!

AND NOW GET THE *ANTIDOTE* FOR THE NONSENSE JUICE, OR IT'LL BE WORSE FOR YOU!

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH...

...THERE IS NO ANTIDOTE!

WHAAAAAT?!

AND *YOU*...YOU MADE US ALL *INVISIBLE!*

HEY, WAIT A MINUTE...

IT'S NOT MY FAULT! I JUST BROKE A FEW THINGS RANDOMLY, LIKE ANY CAPRICIOUS ROYAL!

ALERT! THE NORWEGIAN BEAGLE BOYS ARE HERE, AND THEY'RE ABOUT TO ATTACK THE CASTLE!

WHERE DID EVERYONE GO? AND WHY IS THE THRONE ROOM FLOODED?

ULP! IT'S NOT JUST FLOODED... IT'S ALSO *DISAPPEARING!*

AND... SO AM I!

HA HA! I CAN'T WAIT TO PUT MY PAWS ON THE KING OF DENMARK'S RICHES!

TELL ME ABOUT IT, *PRINCE BEAGLE!*

B-BUT... THERE'S NO CASTLE HERE!

ARGH! IT CAN'T BE!

WHAT A DISASTER!

THUS ENDS THE STORY OF DUCKLET, KING SCROOGE, DUCKOPHELIA, AND ALL THE PLAYERS FROM THE COURT OF DENMARK WHO HAVE PRESENTED THIS TALE TO YOU!

"AND THUS WAS BORN THE LEGEND OF THE **GHOST CASTLE** OF DUCKSINORE!"

NICE STORY! BUT... IT ENDED BADLY FOR EVERYONE, ESPECIALLY FOR DUCKLET!

OF COURSE! IF IT ENDED WELL, IT WOULDN'T BE A *TRAGEDY!*

HMM... BUT THE *POWER OF INVISIBILITY* ISN'T THAT BAD!

DO YOU GUYS SMELL THE *STENCH* OF SMOKED KIPPERS, TOO?

=SNIFF= ... YES!

YOO-HOO! NEPHEWS!

MY BUSINESS IS FINISHED! GET BACK ONBOARD, CREW... WE'RE SETTING SAIL!

Kippers GUNNARSON

I CAN FINALLY GO BACK TO MY HAMMOCK!

IN THE END, THE DISASTER WITH THE NONSENSE JUICE WASN'T ALL BAD, DON'T YOU THINK?

I HAVE TO ADMIT IT...AN INVISIBLE CASTLE IS IMPOSSIBLE TO RAID AND CONQUER!

DOES THIS MEAN YOU'LL GIVE ME THE 15 SHILLINGS YOU PROMISED? DUCKOPHELIA IS HERSELF AGAIN, AND--

YOU'LL EXTEND YOUR *GALLANT INVITATION* TO HER *AFTER* YOU'VE SHINED THE SILVER DOUBLOONS!

=SOB!= THERE'S NO *GRATITUDE* IN THE STATE OF DENMARK!

End

ABOUT THE ORIGINAL AUTHOR

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

(1564–1616)

William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon, England, in 1564. He was a renowned poet, playwright, and actor, and is considered to be one of the greatest writers of all time. Shakespeare attended grammar school for only a short period of time and he did not attend university. While his formal education was not extensive, Shakespeare's ability to intricately weave words was evidence of a strong foundation in writing.

At age eighteen, Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway, with whom he had three children—Susanna, Hamnet, and Judith. Their son Hamnet tragically passed away at the age of eleven.

The specifics of Shakespeare's life between 1585 and 1592 has not been substantiated, but it is believed that he spent most of this time in London pursuing acting and writing his first poems and plays. In 1593, the outbreak of the plague resulted in the closure of many of London's theatres, which led Shakespeare to focus on writing.

In 1594, the theatres re-opened and Shakespeare was recognized as an established actor and playwright. He joined the acting troupe, the Lord Chamberlain's Men. Later this group founded the Globe—one of the most prolific playhouses of its time.

Shakespeare's plays spanned across many genres, from comedies such as *The Comedy of Errors* and *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* to historical plays such as *Richard III* and *Titus Andronicus*. He wrote romantic comedies such as *Much Ado about Nothing* and *A Midsummer's Night Dream* before focusing on tragedies like *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet*, *King Lear*, and *Othello*—some of his most celebrated works.

In 1612, Shakespeare retired and returned to his home in Stratford. Shakespeare's legacy crosses all ages and cultures. His plays have been performed on both stage and film. He enhanced the English language by introducing over 2,000 words and usages of vocabulary. And his characters have become icons, widely referenced throughout history and the arts.

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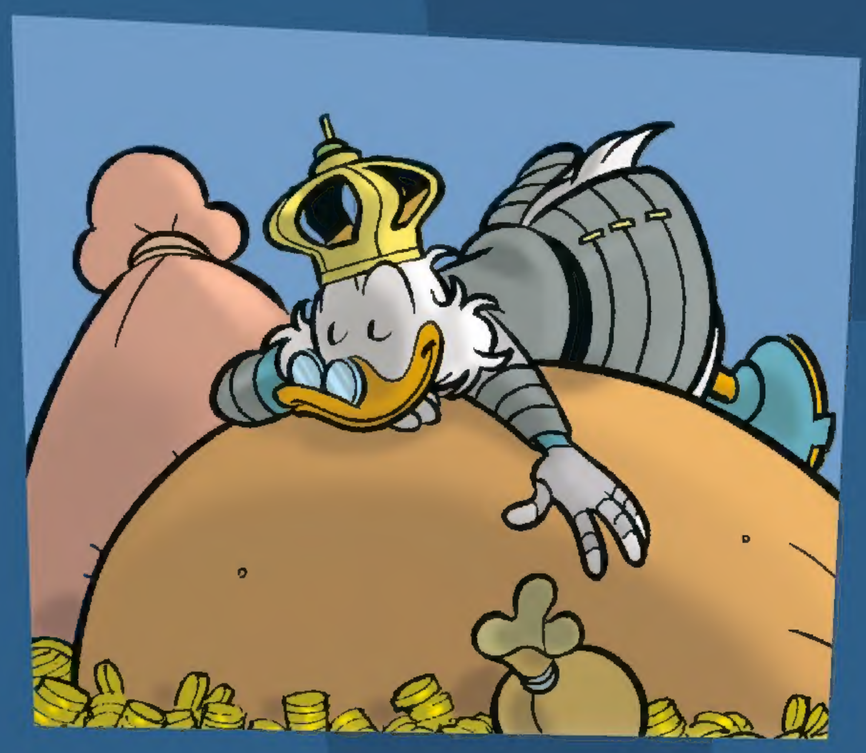
Donald Duck and Scrooge McDuck star in this adaptation of William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*!

When Prince Ducklet receives a visit from the ghost of King Scrooge, his missing uncle, Scrooge reveals that his place as king has been usurped by the scheming Rocklaudius who is now sitting on the throne. The only one able to see and hear Scrooge, Ducklet assumes the duty of restoring peace to the court and serving justice to those who have conspired against the king!



DARK HORSE BOOKS